

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0295

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: NEW MINFONRELS UNDER SECRETARY NAMED

1. GOC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ARMY COLONEL ENRIQUE VALDES PUGA WILL REPLACE NAVY CAPTAIN CLAUDIO COLLADOS NUNEZ AS UNDERSECY OF FONRELATIONS ON FEB 3. COLLADOS WILL BECOME ALTERNATE DELEGATE ON THE CHILEAN UN DELEGATION.

2. VALDES (44) IS AN ACTIVE DUTY ARMY ARTILLERY OFFICER AND 1948 GRADUATE OF MILITARY ACADEMY. HE WAS PROMOTED TO COLONEL IN 1974 WHILE COMMANDER OF THE "ANTOFAGASTA" ARTILLERY REGIMENT. HIS MILITARY CAREER HAS INCLUDED TWO YEARS AT THE U.S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AS A STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR. VALDES IS ALSO A PROFESSOR IN MILITARY HISTORY AND STRATEGY AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY. HE IS MARRIED, HAS FOUR DAUGHTERS, AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. COLLADOS (50) IS A NAVY CAPTAIN WHO RETIRED FROM CHILEAN MARINE CORPS BEFORE BEING RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY IN SEPT 1973. -AFTER RETIREMENT HE HAD OBTAINED DEGREES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WITH EMPHASIS ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND WAS A PROFESSOR AT CHILE'S NAVAL WAR COLLEGE BEFORE ASSUMING THE POSITION OF UNDER
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SECY. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.

4. COMMENT. VALDES IS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. HIS APPOINTMENT ENDS THE CHILEAN NAVY'S DOMINATION OF THE FONMINISTRY SINCE THE SEPT 1973 COUP AND MAY INDICATE THAT THE ARMY WILL TAKE OVER FOREIGN RELATIONS. FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT ARMY OFFICERS ARE EXPECTED TO FILL SEVERAL KEY POSITIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, INCLUDING THAT OF MINISTER.

5. ALTHOUGH ONE MAY QUESTION EFFICACY FOR GOC OF APPOINTMENT OF ANOTHER MILITARY MAN TO THE UN, COLLADOS PERSONALLY WAS REGARDED BY EMBASSY AS A QUIET AND COMPETENT UNDER SECY WHO WAS MORE "DIPLOMATIC" THAN MANY OF HIS PEERS.
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